

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 301316

62

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:DANDERSON

APPROVED BY EUR:AAHARTMAN

EUR:RDVINE (SUBSTANCE)

C:HSOHNENFELDT

S/S:CABORG

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R 230158Z DEC 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

S E C R E T STATE 301316

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, GW, US

SUBJECT: OFFSET

REF: BONN 20597

FOR AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND FROM HARTMAN

1. PLEASE PASS HERMES THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM
SONNENFELDT:

A. WE HAVE REVIEWED THE RECORD OF VINE'S TALKS WITH THE
FOREIGN OFFICE IN BONN LAST WEEK AND FIND THEM A USEFUL
BASIS FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION OF THE OFFSET PROBLEM.

B. WHILE THERE ARE AT PRESENT NO OVERT PRESSURES FROM
CONGRESS ON OFFSET OR TROOP REDUCTION ISSUES, IT IS
PRECISELY DURING THIS PERIOD OF QUIET THAT THE US AND
FRG SHOULD CARRY OUT THEIR EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS.

C. THE FACT IS THAT CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN US TROOPS
AND THE COSTS RESULTING FROM THEIR LOCATION OVERSEAS CON-

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PAGE 02 STATE 301316

TINUES TO EXIST, ALBEIT BENEATH THE SURFACE AT THE PRESENT

TIME, AND CONSTITUTES A POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE PRESSURE ON THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. IT IS THEREBY A POLITICAL ISSUE THAT MUST BE TAKEN ACCOUNT OF.

D. WE THEREFORE URGE THAT THE SOUNDINGS BEGUN IN BONN CONTINUE AT AN EARLY DATE, WITH THE FOCUS ON THE FACILITATION OF TROOP STATIONING IN THE FRG.

2. FYI ONLY. WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN CREATING DIFFICULTIES WITH HERMES OR HIS EVALUATION OF WHAT HE THINKS SONNENFELDT WAS TELLING HIM. WE SIMPLY WANT TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT IN A LOW-KEY, MATTER-OF-FACT WAY SO AS TO BE ABLE TO KEEP TALKS ON A SUCCESSOR ARRANGEMENT TO OFFSET ON THE TRACKS.

3. WE ARE PREPARED TO DROP DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDANCE FOR NOW. HOWEVER SHOULD THIS CREATE IMPRESSION THAT TALKS HAVE FAILED, WE WILL BE FACED WITH TYPE OF PRESSURE WE ARE SEEKING TO AVOID. THEREFORE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE DIALOGUE CONTINUE. KISSINGER

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